

FEB 10 2006

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims 1-4 and 6 as shown below, in which deleted terms are indicated with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are indicated with underscoring. Also, please cancel claim 5 without prejudice and without dedication or abandonment of the subject matter thereof; and add new claims 7-20. The following list of claims replaces all previous versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle, said running board apparatus comprising:

a step portion for lateral placement on a side of a powertrain unit having an operation pedal extending outwardly from a side portion thereof, said step portion adapted to support a foot of a rider thereon; and

a partition plate for placement on the vehicle between the ~~engine~~ powertrain unit and the step portion, the partition plate having an elongated insertion aperture formed therein for allowing the operation pedal to extend therethrough, wherein the insertion aperture extends substantially diagonally along the partition plate ~~in both a front-rear direction and an upper-lower direction.~~

2. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle ~~according to claim 1,~~ said running board apparatus comprising:

a step portion for lateral placement on a side of a powertrain unit having an operation pedal extending outwardly from a side portion thereof, said step portion adapted to support a foot of a rider thereon; and

a partition plate for placement on the vehicle between the powertrain unit and the step

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portion, the partition plate having an insertion aperture formed therein for allowing the operation pedal to extend therethrough; wherein the insertion aperture extends along the partition plate in both a front-rear direction and an upper-lower direction;

wherein the step portion is provided as part of a running board main body; and

wherein the partition plate is provided as a separate body from the running board main body, and includes a slot extending from the insertion aperture to an edge of the partition plate.

3. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle ~~according to claim 1,~~ said running board apparatus comprising:

a step portion for lateral placement on a side of a powertrain unit having an operation pedal extending outwardly from a side portion thereof, said step portion adapted to support a foot of a rider thereon; and

a partition plate for placement on the vehicle between the powertrain unit and the step portion, the partition plate having an insertion aperture formed therein for allowing the operation pedal to extend therethrough; wherein the insertion aperture extends along the partition plate in both a front-rear direction and an upper-lower direction; and

wherein a peripheral portion of the partition plate, surrounding the insertion aperture, is formed with a stepped structure, such that in an installed configuration thereof, a front side of the peripheral portion is positioned to an engine side of the operation pedal, and a rear side thereof is positioned on the opposite side of the operation pedal from the front side.

4. (Currently amended) An all-terrain vehicle, comprising:

a frame;

a powertrain unit operatively attached to the frame and having an operation pedal extending outwardly from a side portion thereof;

a body cover for covering the frame, said body cover comprising a running board apparatus which comprises:

a running board main body for placement on a side of said powertrain unit, said running board main body comprising a step portion adapted to support a foot of a rider thereon; and

a partition plate disposed between the engine and the step portion, the partition plate having an insertion aperture formed therein, allowing an end portion of the operation pedal to extend therethrough;

wherein a peripheral portion of the partition plate, surrounding the insertion aperture, is formed with a stepped structure, such that a front side of the peripheral portion is positioned to an engine side of the operation pedal, and a rear side thereof is positioned on the opposite side of the operation pedal from the front side.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Currently amended) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim [[1]] 4, wherein ~~a peripheral portion of the partition plate, surrounding the insertion aperture, is formed with a stepped structure, such that a front side of the peripheral portion is positioned to an engine side of the operation pedal, and a rear side thereof is positioned on the opposite side of the operation pedal from the front side~~ is provided as a separate body from the running board main body, and wherein the partition plate includes a slot extending from the insertion aperture to an edge thereof.

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7. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the insertion aperture extends diagonally from the powertrain unit in a left-front direction.

8. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the slot is oriented substantially vertically.

9. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 2, wherein the slot is adapted for insertion of the operational pedal therethrough.

10. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate includes an inclined extension portion and the elongated insertion aperture is formed on the inclined extension portion.

11. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate is formed of resin and adapted to resist transfer of engine heat therethrough.

12. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 1, wherein the partition plate is adapted to provide a partition between the step portion and the powertrain unit.

13. (New) The running board apparatus for an all-terrain vehicle according to claim 1, further includes a base having a plural engagement slots; and the partition plate includes a plural engagement pieces; wherein the engagement pieces of the partition plate are engaged with the engagement slots of the base for mounting the partition plate on the base.

14. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the insertion aperture extends diagonally from the powertrain unit in left-front direction.

15. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 6, wherein the slot is oriented substantially vertically.

16. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 6, wherein the slot is adapted for insertion of the operational pedal therethrough.

17. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the insertion aperture has an elongated shape.

18. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the partition plate includes an inclined extension portion and the insertion aperture is formed on the inclined extension portion.

19. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the partition plate is formed of resin and adapted to resist transfer of engine heat therethrough.

20. (New) The all-terrain vehicle according to claim 4, wherein the partition plate is adapted to provide a partition between the step portion and the powertrain unit.